DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 416 749 HE 030 942

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TITLE	The Culture of Denial. Why the Environmental Movement Needs a Strategy for Reforming Universities and Public Schools. SUNY Series in Environmental Public Policy.
ISBN	ISBN-0-7914-3464-8
PUB DATE	1997-00-00
NOTE	277p.
AVAILABLE FROM	State University of New York Press, State University Plaza, Albany, NY 12246 (hardcover: ISBN-0-7914-3463-X; paperback: ISBN-0-7914-3464-8, $17.95).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Opinion Papers (120)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Ecology; Educational Change; Educational Strategies; Elementary Secondary Education; Environment; *Environmental Education; Higher Education; *Modernization; Moral Values
IDENTIFIERS	Environmental Awareness; Environmental Ethic; *Environmental Movement; Environmental Trends

ABSTRACT

This book posits that public schools and universities currently reinforce a culture of denial regarding global environmental trends, and that education, from the primary grades to universities, must be totally revamped to support new, ecologically sustainable paths for society. In Chapter 1, it is argued that few public school teachers and university professors recognize how modern values and behavioral patterns are connected to the ecological crisis. Chapter 2 describes the culture of denial in universities, and suggests how science, globalization, anthropocentrism in the humanities and social sciences, and professional schools of business and education all contribute to a culture of modernity that is having a "devastating impact on the life-sustaining characteristics of ecosystems." Chapter 3 proposes a rethinking of the ideological foundations of current educational institutions toward an ecologically centered ideology. Chapter 4 examines how intelligence, creativity, moral education, and direct experience-based learning can be changed in ways that will enable educators to recognize the curricular implications of a bioconservative culture. Chapters 5 and 6 suggest how environmentalists can translate their concerns about the unsustainability of modern culture into educational strategies for effecting a basic shift in the conceptual and moral foundations of formal education. (Contains 106 references.) (WD)

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